

I am an attorney who represents small businesses. I am a consumer of broadcast media and so are my clients. I also have worked for a number of political candidates and for nonprofit groups. I strongly oppose the proposed changes to the Broadcast Media Ownership rules. The consolidation of broadcast media presents a threat to free expression and to the marketplace of ideas. Broadcast airwaves are different in kind than any other type of media; no one surfs the Net in their car during the morning commute, and the family does not gather around the computer at night to watch the news. This precious public resource should be zealously guarded against the type of conglomeration that has killed thousands of American newspapers and has caused the virtual disappearance of many forms of music from the airwaves in many markets. The rules proposed in Docket 02-277 should be voted down in their entirety.

Jeffrey P. Smith